

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BANGKO 19470 011042Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 VO-03 SCA-01 IO-13 /075 W
-----016231 012150Z /65
R 011003Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5753
INFO USIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 19470

STATE FOR EA; USIA FOR IEA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT: THAI INTERIOR MINISTER'S NEWS CONFERENCE

FOLLOWING IS THE UNOFFICIAL USIS TRANSLATION OF THE NEWS
CONFERENCE THAI INTERIOR MINISTER SAMAK SUNTHARAWET HELD
SEPTEMBER 1 AT THE INTERIOR MINISTRY FOLLOWING THE VISIT
THERE BY CHARGE O'DONOHUE.
(BEGIN TRANSCRIPT)

Q: (INAUDIBLE)

A: WE ARE CONSIDERING THE MATTER. MY INTENTION WAS THAT THE
CHARGE D'AFFAIRES (OF THE US EMBASSY) WOULD ASK QUESTIONS
FIRST REGARDING WHAT HE WANTED TO DISCUSS AND WHAT HIS VIEWS
WERE.

Q: WHAT ORDERS HAVE YOU ISSUED?

A: I HAVE ALREADY SAID THAT BEFORE SENDING ANY REFUGEE BACK, THE
INTERIOR MINISTRY MUST BE CONSULTED FIRST. THAT WAS AN ORDER
I ISSUED YESTERDAY. SECOND, REGARDING THE FEAR THAT WE MIGHT
PUSH REFUGEES THAT ARRIVED OUT TO SEA, THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES
ASKED US ABOUT THAT. HE SAID IN SONGKHLA, THE POLICE HAVE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BANGKO 19470 011042Z

PUSHED REFUGEES OUT TO SEA. WE
ARE STILL INVESTIGATING THAT TO ASCERTAIN THE FACTS. BUT
IF THE SEA IS CALM, THERE IS NO STORM AT SEA, THEN THEY CAN
REMAIN AT SEA TEMPORARILY. BUT WE WILL NOT PUSH THEM OUT. HE
SAID THAT THE U.S. WILL TAKE ABOUT 15,000 REFUGEES, THAT THEY WILL
BE PUT ON BOARD SHIP FIRST.

Q: HOW CONFUSED THAT SOUNDS.....

A: THAT IS WHAT HE SAID. AT FIRST, WE THOUGHT HE MEANT ABOUT 8000.

BUT, NO FIGURES WERE DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING JUST NOW. HE OPENLY EXPRESSED THE FEAR THAT THEY WOULD BE COMPELLED TO RETURN TO THEIR BOATS AND WOULD BE PUSHED OUT TO SEA AGAIN. I SAID THAT WE WILL NOT DO THAT. THE INCIDENT THAT OCCURED IN SONGKHLA WHEN THE POLICE PUSHED THEM OUT TOOK PLACE BECAUSE THEY DIDN'T WANT THE PLACE TO BE IN CHAOS.

Q: (INAUDIBLE)

A: WE DON'T WANT TO RELEASE THIS NEWS YET, BUT HE HAS GIVEN US A DEFINITE NUMBER ALREADY. WE HAVE DECIDED THAT THESE SMALL BOATS WITH THE REFUGEES MUST BE MOVED ELSEWHERE BEFORE THE REFUGEES ARE TAKEN AWAY.

Q: HOW CONFUSING*

A: IT IS VERY CERTAIN THAT HE (THE CHARGE) WILL SELECT REFUGEES FROM A CERTAIN POINT FIRST. BUT NOTHING CAN BE DISCLOSED AT PRESENT.

Q: HOW MANY REFUGEES WILL HE TAKE AWAY?

A: I DON'T KNOW YET. AT PRESENT, WHAT HE FEARS IS THAT WE WILL PUSH THEM OUT TO SEA, BECAUSE HE HAS HEARD THE REPORT THAT WE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 BANGKO 19470 011042Z

HAVE DONE SO ALREADY. HE (CHARGE) IS NOT INTERFERING IN OUR INTERNAL AFFAIRS. HE IS TRYING TO HELP AND IS CONCERNED ABOUT REFUGEES UNDER THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES. THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES STOPPED IN JUST TO ASK FOR NEWS. HE WAS AFRAID THAT INCIDENTS WOULD OCCUR LIKE THE ONE INVOLVING THE 26 CAMBODIANS.

I'M ALWAYS IN THE NEWS EVERY DAY* THAT SAMAK IS TERRIBLE, DOING THIS AND DOING THAT. ISN'T IT TRUE THAT THESE REPORTS ARE PUBLISHED IN THE PAPERS, THAT THEY MAKE BANNER HEADLINES, EVEN IN THIS MORNING'S NEWSPAPER?

Q: (INAUDIBLE)

A: WE HAVE ALREADY HELD TALKS, AND FROM THE START, IT WAS SAID THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD TAKE 15,000. THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES SAYS HE HAS RECEIVED CONFIRMATION, BUT NO FIGURES WERE MENTIONED.

....OTHERWISE THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES WILL SAY THAT WE HAVE DISCLOSED MATTERS DISCUSSED IN A PRIVATE CONVERSATION. THE US WILL TAKE A NUMBER OF REFUGEES VERY SOON, BUT NOW THE ENTIRE 15,000--ONLY ABOUT 8000, THE FIRST INSTALLMENT.

HE DID NOT MENTION ANY DEFINITE FIGURE, BUT THE FIRST LOT WILL BE TAKEN AWAY VERY, VERY SOON.

WHAT HE FEARS IS THAT WE WILL EXPELL THEM AND THAT INCIDENTS WILL OCCUR SUCH AS THE ONE INVOLVING THOSE CAMBODIANS. HE HAS HEARD THAT PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS HAVE SAID THAT REFUGEES MUST BE EXPELLED. HE LOOKED RATHER WORRIED. HE SEEMED TO WORRY ABOUT THOSE REFUGEES. I TOLD HIM THAT WE HAVE RULES AND REGULATIONS WHICH MUST BE FOLLOWED.

Q: WHAT IS THE ACTUAL FIGURE?

A: WHICH ONE?

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 BANGKO 19470 011042Z

Q: THE NUMBER OF REFUGEES THEY WILL COME AND TAKE AWAY. IS IT 8000?

A. A NEWS REPORT HAS ALREADY BEEN PUBLISHED THAT MAERICA WILL TAKE 15,000 REFUGEES FROM SEVERAL COUNTRIES, FIVE OR SIX COUNTRIES IN THIS REGION, INCLUDING THAILAND ALSO, BUT NOT ONLY FROM THAILAND.

Q: ARE THESE 8000 REFUGEES INCLUDED IN THAT TOTAL?

A: I DON'T KNOW WHERE THEY WILL BE TAKEN FROM YET.
(END TRANSCROPT).
O'DONOHUE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEES, PRESS SUMMARIES, SEA RESCUES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BANGKO19470
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770317-0371
Format: TEL
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197709110/aaaadoku.tel
Line Count: 149
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c248aa3a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1095155
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THAI INTERIOR MINISTER'S NEWS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING IS THE UNOFFICIAL USIS TRANSLATION OF THE NEWS CONFERENCE THAI INTERIOR MINISTER SAMAK SUNTHARAWA
TAGS: SOPN, SREF
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c248aa3a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009